

REMARKS

The Advisory Action dated November 24, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 10-13 and 20-26 are canceled without prejudice or waiver, and claims 5, 14 and 19 are amended. As amended, claims 5, 14 and 19 are the independent claims in this application.

The applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Advisory Action that claims 5-9 and 14-19 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5, 14 and 19 are rewritten herein in independent form in order to place claims 5-9 and 14-19 in condition for allowance.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintains the prior art rejections of claims 1-4, 10-13 and 20-26. It is respectfully submitted that the rejections are moot in view of the cancellation herein of the rejected claims.

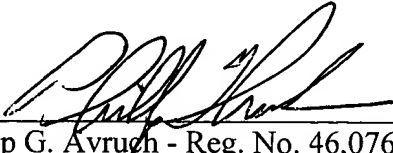
The applicant submits that the amendments herein place the claims in condition for allowance and do not raise any issues requiring further search or other significant effort on the part of the Examiner. Therefore, it is believed that entry of this Amendment is appropriate under 37 CFR 1.116. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection, and allowance of the application, with claims 5-9 and 14-19 as amended, are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2004
Date

PGA/


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